

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A substrate for an information recording medium, which is formed of a glass containing SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, BaO, Na<sub>2</sub>O, K<sub>2</sub>O and ZrO<sub>2</sub> and no Li<sub>2</sub>O, having a glass transition temperature (T<sub>g</sub>) of 600°C or higher and having an etching rate of 0.1 μm/minute or less with regard to a hydrosilicofluoric acid aqueous solution that is maintained at a temperature of 45°C and has a hydrosilicofluoric acid concentration of 1.72 % by weight.

2. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, CaO and K<sub>2</sub>O as essential components.

3. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 2, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 45 to 70 % of SiO<sub>2</sub>, 1 to 15 % of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, the total content of SiO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> being 57 to 85 %, 2 to 25 % of CaO, more than 0 ~~[[to]]~~ but not more than 15 % of BaO, 0 to 15 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of ZnO, the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO, BaO and ZnO being 2 to 30 %, more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of K<sub>2</sub>O, more than 0 ~~[[to]]~~ but not more than 8 % of Na<sub>2</sub>O, the total content of K<sub>2</sub>O and Na<sub>2</sub>O being 2 to 15 %, more than 0 ~~[[to]]~~ but not more than 12 % of ZrO<sub>2</sub> and 0 to 10 % of TiO<sub>2</sub>, the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

4. (original/withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, CaO, Na<sub>2</sub>O and K<sub>2</sub>O and has a chemically strengthened layer.

5. (original/withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 4, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 47 to 70 % of SiO<sub>2</sub>, 1 to 10

% of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , the total content of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  being 57 to 80 %, 2 to 25 % of  $\text{CaO}$ , 1 to 15 % of  $\text{BaO}$ , 1 to 10 % of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , 0 to 3 % of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , the total content of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$  being 3 to 16 %, 1 to 12 % of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{MgO}$ , 0 to 15 % of  $\text{SrO}$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{ZnO}$ , the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$  and  $\text{ZnO}$  being 3 to 30 %, the ratio of the content of  $\text{CaO}$  to the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$  and  $\text{BaO}$  being at least 0.5, and 0 to 10 % of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

6. (original/withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{ZrO}_2$  as essential components and has a chemically strengthened layer,

7. (currently amended/withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 6, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 47 to 70 % of  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 1 to 10 % of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , the total content of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  being 57 to 80 %, 2 to 25 % of  $\text{CaO}$ , 1 to 15 % of  $\text{BaO}$ , 1 to 10 % of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , more than 0 but not more than 15 % of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , 0 to 3 % of  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ , the total content of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$  being 3 to 16 %, 1 to 12 % of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{MgO}$ , 0 to 15 % of  $\text{SrO}$ , 0 to 10 % of  $\text{ZnO}$ , the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$ ,  $\text{BaO}$  and  $\text{ZnO}$  being 3 to 30 %, the ratio of the content of  $\text{CaO}$  to the total content of  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SrO}$  and  $\text{BaO}$  being at least 0.5, and 0 to 10 % of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

8. (previously presented/withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, which is for use in a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode information recording medium.

9. (previously presented/withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 1.

10. (previously presented/withdrawn) The information recording medium as recited in claim 9, which is a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode magnetic recording medium.

11. (previously presented/withdrawn) A process for manufacturing an information recording medium, which comprises the step of forming an information recording layer on a substrate for an information recording medium and uses the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 1 as said substrate, said step comprising the procedure of heating said substrate to a temperature of 300 to 600°C.

12. (previously presented/withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 2.

13. (previously presented/withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 3.

14. (previously presented/withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 4.

15. (previously presented/withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 5.

16. (previously presented/withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 6.

17. (previously presented/withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 7.

18. (previously presented) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, wherein the ratio of the content of CaO to the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO and BaO ( $\text{CaO}/(\text{MgO}+\text{CaO}+\text{SrO}+\text{BaO})$ ) is 0.5 or more.

19. (previously presented) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 50 to 67 % of  $\text{SiO}_2$ , 2 to 12 % of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , the total content of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  being 57 to 79 %, 3 to 20 % of CaO, 0 to 14 % of BaO, 0 to 10 % of MgO, 0 to 10 % of SrO, 0 to 8 % of ZnO, the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO, BaO and ZnO being 3 to 30 %, 0 to 5 % of  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , 0.5 % to 15 % of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , the total content of  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  being 4 to 12 %, 0 to 10 % of  $\text{ZrO}_2$  and 0 to 8 % of  $\text{TiO}_2$ .